

## Lesson 39 Matthew 19.23-20.16 (19.23) Jesus teaches about grace and the reward of the saints

### *The demise of the rich and emergence of the poor to whom grace gives standing with God*

Jesus turning to His disciples said, "It is hard to please" or "hard to satisfy"(Greek *δυσκολως*) a rich man who would enter the kingdom of heaven". The disciples respond, "Who then can be saved?" The key is Jesus statement, "With men it is impossible to be saved with God all things are possible" (That is, from any nation, any status, any age and any circumstances the Spirit of God can reach and save) John Owen speaks of the sealing of the Holy Spirit in this context as "evidence of our acceptance with Him for ourselves and others and as an assertion of our preservation to eternal life"

### *The re-genesis and the reward of Apostles and missionaries*

Looked at from the viewpoint of the day when Christ comes to reign-a period called "repeat genesis or back genesis or restoration(Greek *παλιγγενεσις*) when the LORD is judging the twelve tribes of Israel in a context we need to understand is imminent after the home call of the church the apostles will accompany Christ as assistant rulers within the kingdom on earth and all who have given up home and family for Christ will have 100-fold reward in life and receive the inheritance of eternal life (lived through the great period of restitution. In those days the priority of God in reward will reverse the position of those who appear foremost now.

### *God's workers*

The landlord of the vineyard came to an agreement (Greek *συμφωνια*) with workers that a denarius would be the reward of a day's work. The work was great so the landlord went to hire staff after the early start at 6am. He took on labourers at 9am, 12am, 3pm and 5pm. When it came to light that those who had worked only one hour were paid on a par with those who worked in the heat murmuring and dissention broke out. Now this parable is not told to Jews-it is for the consumption of Peter and the disciples as Jesus teaches them. If we are to understand "heat" to mean hard circumstances of service as persecution and the "eleventh hour" hired servants as to have had but a short and comparatively exciting period of witness with large results we can understand the case of Christians in earlier centuries. Many eschatologically positioned believers like Billy Graham and Gerhardt Bonkke have been huge reapers and in this sense first on the results table. This is the sheer reality of divine sovereignty in the church.

### *From paper to practice*



Did Jesus put Himself about to please the rich man and smooth his way to heaven?

Do Christian workers receive any compensation for what they give up in t5his life?

Have the apostles any notable rewards awaiting them?

Does scripture lead us to believe that the LORD has special rewards for the saints of the early church or the fathers of Reformation?